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looked, but on following the root from the *Aphyllon* a dead plant would be found, generally small and nearly or quite buried in the sand. Some withered and blackened leaves showed that it had started in the spring and grown for a while, but had evidently died of exhaustion, giving its life to sustain the parasite. This also would be dead under such conditions, having perhaps perfected its seed, though those on stronger hosts are perennial, the stems only dying after fruiting, the haustorium and parts adjacent being provided with buds for a new growth.

### An Economic Mulberry.

The August issue of the BULLETIN contains an interesting note and figure of a Linden which had taken root in the decomposed wood of its own trunk, an occurrence by no means commonly observed and, as it seems, but rarely recorded. Not long ago, however, there appeared in one of our papers, as copied from an English paper, an account of an English Oak which had "sustained itself for years by a mass of roots grown into its own trunk!"

To the phenomenon described in the BULLETIN by Mr. Sargent for the Linden may be added a similar one lately observed in the trunk of a small White Mulberry, standing in the grounds of the Department of Agriculture. The conditions are essentially the same as those noted in the case of the Linden, except that the Mulberry is perhaps more seriously injured, a considerable portion of its trunk being destroyed by decay. The adventitious roots observed spring from the free border of a longitudinal crack where the trunk forks, the edges of the wound having been "healed" for some time, while the subsequent decomposition of the exposed inner layers of wood formed a quantity of mould, which, lying in contact with the healed borders, seems to have induced the growth of adventitious roots from one side into the decayed mass.

In considering the precise conditions under which this apparently peculiar growth is produced, as well as the fact that, as far as observed, the adventitious roots proceed only from vigorous, newly-formed wood, perhaps these cases may not be more phenomenal than the production of roots from a cutting, or from a

layered branch, where new wood is subjected to the same conditions, and therefore seem to be quite analogous to the case in which the Linden and Mulberry produced roots, if not an expression of the same law. The apparent incongruity exhibited by a plant deriving, as it seems, nourishment from its own body appears more striking at first thought than if we consider that the lignified part of any living trunk, if reduced by decay, is as fittingly a plant food as that which may be appropriated by the same individual from its own accumulation of decayed leaves, provided, of course, the necessary moisture is present in the humus.

GEORGE B. SUDWORTH.

Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture.

### Botanical Notes.

*Sweet Potato Blossoms.* While in South Jersey last fall I was much surprised to find one field of sweet potatoes in full bloom! Literally this was true, for upon any single square rod of the field there were hundreds of the large, handsome, pale pink, tubular blossoms, and many more buds preparing for anthesis. In conversation with a local botanist, and one who has always lived in the sweet potato region and among the plants for many years as a grower of "sweets," I learned that he had never seen a single bloom, and his face lighted up to such an extent when he obtained an herbarium specimen that it was an inspiration to me to send this note to the BULLETIN. If the blossom is such a rarity in New Jersey, the wonder is if the same is true in the Carolinas and further south, where its native haunts may possibly be, although to this generation they are unknown. It is possible that this particular field was set with plants of a strain foreign to the Jersey soil.

BYRON D. HALSTED.

*Mimulus moschatus*, Dougl. in N. Y. State.—Some years ago I was told by a friend from here of finding the musk-plant in Saratoga County wild, which I would not believe. Later he tried to convince me by showing me living specimens, but I remained sceptical, as I always heard the plant was not hardy in our climate, and probably only an escape from cultivation. The 3d of July last, however, I drove out with the sportsman the twenty-five or more miles from here through West Milton to Middle